

App. No. 10/749866
Office Action Dated September 22, 2004
Office Action Dated January 24, 2005

REMARKS

Reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and following remarks. Claims 1 and 4-9 are hereby amended editorially. Claim 1 has also been amended to incorporate limitations recited in canceled claims 2 and 3. Claims 2 and 3 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. No new matter has been added. Claims 1 and 4-9 are pending.

The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawing must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the "...simultaneously opens and closes each of the canals in the canal zone" recited in claim 4 must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). Claim 4 has been amended. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claim rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph as being indefinite. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. Claims 1, 4 and 7-9 have been amended. Withdrawal and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claim rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-3, 5, 8 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Bartley et al. (US 3,722,469). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claim 1 is directed to a nozzle unit for spreading foamed glue onto a flat surface in production of wood-based sheets. The nozzle unit comprises a feeder canal, a plurality

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of nozzle and a distribution canal network. The distribution canal network comprises a plurality of successive canal zones and a compensation canal. The compensation canal is arranged to connect all the flow canals of one canal zone, wherein the glue flows into the compensation canal only from the flow canals within the one canal zone.

Bartley teaches an apparatus for distributing coating and impregnates on a web of non-woven fabric. The apparatus includes a distribution system. The Examiner asserts element 19 of Bartley teaches a compensation canal. Applicants respectfully disagree, as there is no element 19 present in the Bartley reference. Bartley teaches element 19a-19b which are branch tubbings that divide one canal into several nozzles 26. Bartley fails to teach a distribution system comprising a compensation canal as required by claim 1. Therefore, Bartley fails to anticipate claim 1. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 5, 8 and 9 depend either directly or indirectly from claim 1. For the reasons discussed above for claim 1, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-4 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Owen (US 753,730). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claim 1 is directed to a nozzle unit for spreading foamed glue onto a flat surface in production of wood-based sheets. The nozzle unit comprises a feeder canal, a plurality of nozzle and a distribution canal network. The distribution canal network comprises a plurality of successive canal zones and a compensation canal. The compensation canal is

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arranged to connect all the flow canals of one canal zone, wherein the glue flows into the compensation canal only from the flow canals within the one canal zone.

Owen teaches a spraying spar for spraying trees or shrubbery of different heights. Owen discloses a pipe connection from N to nozzles C via H-E-F-E-E'-A. K is a plug. Owen fails to teach the distribution canal network as required by claim 1. Furthermore, Owen fails to teach or suggest the compensation canal as required by claim 1. Therefore, Owen fails to anticipate claim 1. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 4 and 7 depend either directly or indirectly from claim 1. For the reasons discussed above for claim 1, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the above, favorable reconsideration in the form of a notice of allowance is requested. If a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any issues concerning this communication, please contact Applicants' primary attorney-of record, John J. Gresens (Reg. No. 33,112), at (612) 371.5265.

Respectfully submitted,

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JJG:smm